The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a digested summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"What the right requires, let the true man do fearlessly and loyally."

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REGISTERING ALIENS OPPOSED BY CLERGY

Washington, March 27.—Espionage of aliens would defeat the very ends which it is designed to serve, says the administrative committee of the Federal Council of Churches.

The committee expresses its apprehension in regard to these proposals now before congress.

"While heartily agreeing that every proper effort should be made to curb the illegal entry of aliens, to promote respect for law by all in our midst, and to further the incorporation of aliens into our community life, we feel strongly that all steps which are taken to secure these ends should be free from any spirit of antagonism toward aliens and from any features which will be humiliating to them," the committee says.

"Any law which aims to safeguard the nation from anti-social influences, but which in practice makes aliens residing in America feel that they have been subjected to annoying espionage or unjust discriminations, would defeat the very ends which it is designed to serve. It would create an attitude of ill-will toward our government, rather than an attitude of friendly confidence."

RAILROAD MANAGERS BOLT THEIR "UNION"

New York, March 27.—The Association of Railway Managers have a secession movement on their hands. The bolt is headed by President Loree of the Delaware & Hudson.

After an all-day session of the association, the seceders failed to amend the railroad labor bill, now pending in the senate, so that the interstate commerce commission will control wages.

The insurgents claim that as the bill now stands freight rates may be increased. They want the I. C. C. to pass on wages, after the managers and employes reach an agreement. They are supported by the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau.

The bill provides for mediation and then arbitration. It has been agreed to by 80 per cent of the nation's railroad mileage and the 16 standard railroad organizations. It has passed the house and has been approved by a senate committee.

President Loree, leader of the secession movement, joined with Judge Gary in opposing recognition of trade unionism and collective bargaining at the industrial conference in Washington, called several years ago by President Wilson.

OIL LEASE REVIEW ORDERED BY COURT

Washington, March 27.—The United States supreme court has ordered a review of decisions in lower courts which held that the Harry F. Doheny lease of the Elk Hills oil reserve in California is illegal. The federal district court and the circuit court of appeals both held that the lease and contracts were invalid because they were obtained by fraud and corruption. The lower courts also challenged the right of Albert Fall, as secretary of the interior, to make them on the ground that congress entrusted the oil reserves to the secretary of the navy, and the president had no right to transfer this control to Fall's department.

In asking the supreme court to review the case, the Doheny interests contended that the question was similar to the case against the Sinclair Mammoth Oil company's lease of the Teapot Dome oil reserve, which has been upheld by a Wyoming federal district court. That court sustained the president's transfer of the oil lands, and Fall's lease.

The latest decision has no connection with criminal proceedings in the District of Columbia court against Doheny, Sinclair and Fall.

The oil cases have been the subject of bitter senate controversy and were injected in the last presidential campaign. At a senate investigation Doheny frankly told the committee he had loaned Fall $100,000 in cash, delivered in "a little black satchel."

LAUNDRIES TO MERGE

New York, March 27.—A merger in the laundry industry is the latest to interest financiers. More than a score of large laundries in this state have been incorporated. This business has more than trebled in volume in the last 10 years and statisticians say that only one-tenth of the possible market has been exploited.

TRUST RESTRICTS BUSINESS

New York, March 27.—When the Continental Baking company took over baking establishments, the latter agreed not to re-enter business within five years or within 50 miles of their original business.

George G. Barber, chairman of the company's board of directors, made this statement at a hearing held by the Federal Trade Commission.

Why Bankers Oppose Seamen's Law; Are Interested In Foreign-Flag Ships

Washington, March 27.—New York financial interests oppose an American merchant marine because of heavy investments in foreign shipping, according to Malcolm R. Stewart of Cincinnati, chairman of the Middle West Foreign Trade Board, before the house merchant marine committee.

Charging that powerful influences on the North Atlantic are seeking to discredit the United States shipping board, Mr. Malcolm said:

"It is not hard to understand why certain groups in the North Atlantic are opposed to the board when you consider that some of our most important so-called American steamship owners own more foreign vessels than American. In addition, financial institutions in New York have heavy investments in foreign shipping."

The witness said these interests would destroy the American merchant marine that they may be free to exploit American shippers by raising freight rates "to a point where they can make enormous profits for their foreign-flag ships."

Mr. Malcolm's testimony is in line with claims by the International Seamen's union in opposition to the La Follette seamen's law is led by American vessel owners who are interested in foreign ships.

Under the seamen's law, when a foreign vessel is safe in an American port, a seaman can quit his work if he is dissatisfied with conditions. Formerly he would be arrested for "desertion." The seamen's law forces the vessel's captain to pay the prevailing wage rate in that American port, if he would secure sufficient labor to man his ship.

American vessel owners oppose the law. The reason, of course, is that they are secretly interested in foreign vessels that are compelled, when they visit American ports, to approximate American conditions.

GREAT RAIL SYSTEM LOOTED; IDAHO SENATOR ASKS PROBE

Washington, March 27.—Charging that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad was looted by New York bankers, Senator Gooding has asked the senate to investigate methods by which this corporation was thrown into bankruptcy.

The resolution quotes President Byram of the company as saying last year that bankruptcy followed a failure of the road to meet an issue of $48,000,000 of bonds that matured last June.

Mr. Byram has been appointed a receiver of the road, and he is quoted on March 20 and April 25 of this year that "there were plenty of friends of the road in New York who would have been willing to put up the money necessary to insure the refinancing of $48,000,000 of bonds."

The resolution points to numerous non-profit properties that were acquired by the Milwaukee road. The resolution further states that funds were made to provide means for meeting the maturity of said bonds as well as to furnish necessary working capital prior to receivership. The minutes of the board of directors show that on March 17, 1925, a committee conferred with Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the National City company, New York bankers, for the purchase of the stock holders. These plans provided for a reorganization and included $3,500,000 for attorneys' fees and expenses.

Proposed stock assessments of $25 to $28 a share, said Senator Gooding, would "wipe out the small stockholder.

"I have some personal knowledge of the conditions which existed on the Milwaukee road, for my state made an appropriation for an investigation of the cost of construction of the Milwaukee road, for rate assessment purposes," said Senator Gooding.

"They found that great fills were sluiced in, through hydraulic pressure, from the mountain side, were classified as loose rock and paid for as loose rock; that loose rock was classified as solid rock."

The lawmaker declared that when the full story is told and the proper investigation is made, "it will be one of greed, graft and corruption such as the American people have never heard of."

PADDING RAIL PAYROLL IN WAR TIME ALLEGED

Trenton, N. J., March 27.—William C. Gennerich of the Ascher detective agency and Captain Reginald Fay, superintendent of the marine department of the New York Central railroad, face conspiracy charges in Federal Judge Bodine's court. They are accused of defrauding the government by "padding" the railroad company's payroll during a strike in the marine department when the lines were under federal control. It is said that similar charges will be made against other minor railroad officials throughout the country.

The government charges that Gennerich and Fay entered into a conspiracy with the late A. J. Ascher, president of the Ascher detective agency. Ascher's firm was hired by the railroad to furnish men to act as guards and strikebreakers. The government alleges that Ascher, aided by the defendants, made false claims for payment of wages for men never on the payroll of the company.

It is charged that $127,000 alleged to have been fraudulently collected from the railroad was paid by the government, under its war-time contract with the railroad.

RECKLESS OIL DRAIN, CAUSES HEAVY LOSS

Princeton, N. J., March 27.—Government action is necessary to stop reckless waste in the Mid-Continent field, Dr. W. T. Thom of the United States geological survey told an audience at Princeton university.

High pressure competition and waste were condemned and legislation was urged to insure the greatest benefit from remaining fields.

Although the United States produces nearly three-fourths of the world's yearly yield of petroleum, it has only one-seventh of the world's reserve, Dr. Thom said.

Through government aid, he added, "it is highly probable there would be saved at least one billion dollars which are now in all probability lost in the extraction of each barrel. This would mean an annual saving of a billion dollars for an expenditure of a million."

MINE GUARDS GUILTY

Fairmont, W. Va., March 27.—A mine guard and a superintendent of the Bingamon mine have been found guilty of assault and battery on three union miners, who were shot by the thugs last December. The defendants were sentenced to seven months in jail and fined $100 and costs.

The testimony showed that the convicted men were intoxicated when they attempted to drive the unionists out of the mine settlement where they had been visiting a relative.

PROFIT IN INJURY FILLS POOR HOUSE

Lansing, Mich., March 27.—The evils of private profit in workmen's compensation are indicated by Silas Main, county superintendent of the poor, who says the private insurance companies compel employers to weed out only the most fit workers.

"There are more persons in the Ingham county infirmary than a year ago," said Mr. Main. Some of these persons are physically able to do light work, but are unable to find employment as the employer does not care to take a chance, he said.

"In fact, there is a weeding out process now going on among factories in this city, though the corporation may desire to give employment to certain persons, yet these persons, for one reason or another, are 'bad risks' for employer and the insurance company carrying compensation."

PUBLIC SCHOOL COST TOTALS TWO BILLION

Washington, March 27.—A board that is investigating wastes in the nation's public school bill finds costs so great that continued rapid expansion along present lines is questionable.

The people are spending $2,000,000,000 annually on the public schools, and the department of interior says:

"The American people have faith in the public schools, but there is an insistent demand for the adoption of the fundamental principles of good business management in the administration of all school systems."

The annual cost of public education has nearly doubled during the past five years, and is almost four times as great as it was in 1915.

"Some of this unusual increase can, of course, be explained by the loss in the value of the dollar and by the rapid growth in school attendance, but by no means all of it," the department says.

"Some of it has certainly been due to a growing insistence on the part of the public for more and better schools, modern equipment, greater play facilities, increased extra-curricula activities, higher pay for teachers in order to obtain better teachers, an expansion of health conservation facilities such as dental and medical clinics, and a host of other demands that indicate a belief in the public school as an institution which is essential to the welfare and progress of the nation."

BARBERS DON'T FAVOR PENSION AND HOME

Indianapolis, March 27.—The Journeymen Barbers' International union has rejected a pension plan and also a proposal to build a barbers' home. The plans were submitted but action has not been officially announced. Secretary-Treasurer Fischer estimates they are defeated.

The proposal to establish barber colleges was also defeated.

FOOD SLIGHTLY LOWER

Washington, March 27.—The retail price of food was lower between January 15 and February 15 last, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Newark and New Orleans report a 3 per cent drop. Decreases in 43 other leading cities range from less than 3 per cent to one-half of 1 per cent.

YEAST WORKERS GAIN

Baltimore, March 27.—Yeast workers employed by the Federal Yeast company have gained wages of $3 a week and secured a two-year contract.

TRICKERY HAS NO PLACE IN LEGISLATION

If a democracy is to function, citizens must know the facts regarding proposed legislation. This is not necessary in an autocracy, as all trust is placed in the ruler.

If laws are to be accepted in a democracy, the people must be told the purpose of a proposed statute. Untruthful propaganda and jokers may succeed for a time but there is a redound that is harmful to our governmental system.

Propaganda for pending legislation that is alleged will "conscript capital and labor" in the next war is a sample of the tricky methods used to becloud facts.

In urging this legislation before a New York audience recently, a high official of the navy department said that it "will put capital, labor and all the nation's resources on the basis with men's lives" and that this "will make war so inclusive that no jingo can ever make it popular."

This is a catchy statement. It appeals to those who are moved by phrases. It is intended to create the impression that while labor will be conscripted, the same treatment will be accorded capital—that all profit will be eliminated in the wars to come.

There is not a semblance of truth in this claim. This is inference.

There is no proposal before congress that would prevent labor from receiving its "fair" profit while labor is conscripted.

There is no denial that labor will be conscripted. Any bill which does not provide for this will be worthless. Capital will only be regulated—just as was attempted in the world war.

It is a use of weasel words to say there is any similarity between conscription of labor and regulation of prices.

The claim is intended to deceive.

Imperialists who would have America develop a vast colonial system are not enthusiastic over excessive war-time profits.

These far-sighted business men know when a country is at war inordinate profits destroy the morale of those who must stop the bullets.

The imperialists have other days in mind. So they favor limiting—but not eliminating—war profits. The imperialist's profits begin when the war is over. Then he loans money at high interest rates for reconstruction bonds, exploits new markets and new possessions, as in Porto Rico and the Philippines.

CONVICT LABOR FOR PROFIT REVEALS ANOTHER HORROR

Montgomery, Ala., March 27.—The evils of convict labor for private profit were again revealed in a report by Attorney General Knox to Governor Brandon on the death of James Knox, in 1924, at the Flat Top prison mine, near Birmingham.

The death of Knox was officially recorded as suicide but it is now known that the convict died from the heart failure because of fright resulting from cruel and inhumane treatment. Official responsibility for the death pumped biehloride of mercury in Knox's stomach to sustain their suicide charge, it is said.

Much conflicting testimony was submitted, but the attorney general holds that the preponderance of evidence precludes the suicide theory. It is charged that Knox was beaten for several days with a trolley wire the diameter of a man's finger, with electrodes and with hickory sticks by trusty convicts who acted with the approval of state employes at the mine.

Knox was in the mine but five days when he died. He weighed 210 pounds, and was considered a tremendous girth. Some of the testimony is that he tried to shovel coal, but failed because of his physical unfitness.

The convict leasing system is generally condemned in this state. Any individual or corporation can secure this labor to work on farms, in coal mines, in lumber camps or other industries. The lessee guards and punishes the prisoners as he sees fit, although authority must be secured from state officials if a convict is to be flogged. It is hinted that this requirement is evaded. Convicts who have saw a coal mine are placed in these workings. Safety provisions are ignored and as the convicts are unacquainted with deadly peril, fatalities are numerous, and are reported only when the number of killed and injured is unusual.

CO-OP. INSURANCE PLAN ACCEPTED BY UNIONS

Washington, March 27.—At a meeting of directors of the Union Labor Life Insurance company the board reported that nearly $250,000 in stock has been subscribed by trade unions, nearly all of this amount is immediately available which called for by the company.

These subscriptions were secured without a single letter to local unions, unless they requested information regarding organized labor's latest cooperative venture.

The directors, who are officials of national and international trade unions, were amazed at the number of applications for group and individual insurance from every section of the country.

The company was formed by representatives of A. F. of L. affiliates after long consideration of co-operative life insurance by a committee appointed by the A. F. of L. The company will be a co-operative enterprise for service and not for profit. Pictures or high market values will not be created for share-holders, but the insured will benefit by savings through various channels.

National and international unions are limited to 800 shares, local, city and state bodies to 400 shares and individual trade unionists to 10 shares. These limitations are intended to prevent any group from dominating or controlling the company.

FAKE "REFORMERS" ARE MONEY GETTERS

Chicago, March 27.—Fake reformers and so-called law enforcing organizations were denounced in the city council by Alderman Oscar F. Nelson, vice president of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The trade unionist referred to these reformers as "money getters." A resolution introduced by him instructs the council's judiciary committee to draft state legislation that "reform" bodies that solicit funds from the public must register a list of their members and contributors with the secretary of state.

"It has recently developed," the resolution states, "that these so-called associations are manipulated by and are the exclusive property of small cliques of individuals who collect large sums of money from the public under the guise of serving as reform associations."

One of these organizations recently called on congress to take charge of the city of Chicago and "enforce the law." The reformers were reminded that there is such a thing as state's rights still in existence, and that they should wash their political linen at home.

LAUNDRY WORKERS STRIKE

Chicago, March 27.—Low wages forced laundry girls employed in three of the largest laundries in this city on strike. Rates in these "free and independent" plants range from $8 to $12 a week.

LATIN-AMERICAN LABOR ADVISED BY "FRIENDS"

Washington, March 27.—Certain newspapers in Latin America look with unfriendly eye at the penetration of the United States and workers of these countries. These newspapers warn workers to shun the Pan-American Federation of Labor, which is a grouping of the American Federation of Labor and similar organizations south of the Rio Grande.

Newspapers in Argentine, Venezuela, Columbia, Porto Rico, Cuba and other Latin-American countries advise workers of these countries to maintain their Latin-American culture and avoid the American Federation of Labor. Racial and national prejudices are appealed to by writers who note the awakened consciousness of workers and their purpose to adopt the evolutionary methods which have proved so successful by workers in the United States and Canada.

Only recently a Madrid newspaper published an article by a Venezuelan writer who declared that the intervention of the American Federation of Labor in labor questions in South America will prove harmful to these countries as the United States labor organization is "conservative." It is evident that the Latin-American workers are abandoning their fiery declarations, and that this is unsatisfactory to employers.

Last week Wm. Green, chairman of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, received fraternal greetings from the first annual congress of the National Railroad Brotherhood of Cuba. Mr. Green aided in adjusting a dispute between these workers and Cuban railroad managers. The union is recognized and improved work conditions secured. As a result of these gains, the brotherhood voted to affiliate with the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

CONGESTED HOUSING IS HEALTH MENACE

New York, March 27.—Tenement congestion in this city is a menace to health, according to the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. Of the 5,700 families it is assisting, 1,500 are seriously overcrowded. Its report says:

"This congestion in many cases is the direct cause of sickness and resultant poverty and dependency."

Only 21 of 862 families studied have both bathrooms and steam heat; 693 have neither. Their rents range from $12.77 a month for two rooms to $45.12 for six rooms."

WON'T PUBLISH PRICES

Washington, March 27.—Retail coal dealers in the District of Columbia have notified a senate committee that they will not publish their prices. The plan was intended to let the people decide whether prices are "fair."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Salisbury, Md., March 27.—The annual convention of the Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor will convene here on May 17.

Frightful Wastes Don't 'Just Happen' Industrial Accidents Can Be Stopped

Washington, March 27.—There is no such thing as an "unavoidable" industrial accident. If there is an exception it is among the great natural catastrophes, such as earthquakes and tornadoes. The truly industrial accident does not have to occur.

The above indictment of human waste in industry is included in a statement by Lewis A. DeBlois, former president of the National Safety Council, and printed in the current issue of Monthly Labor Review, issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Safety education rests primarily upon the development of a new point of view on accidents and the value of human life," said Mr. DeBlois. "It seeks to teach the individual that accidents do not 'happen,' but are caused, and that the causes are preventable. It tells him that prevention can not be accomplished solely by those in executive authority, that tacit approval of the safety movement gets no results, but that he must take an active part.

"It strives to awaken his conscience to the national disgrace of an annual two billion dollar loss and to the agony and suffering which can never be entered in the ledger.

"But to do these things, safety education must break down the old concepts, the mental attitudes, and the habits of thought and action that are of racial origin and persistence. If accident prevention were a mere matter of physical changes in the working environment we would have been justified in expecting marked statistical indications of national progress years ago. But accident prevention is not that; it is essentially an educational movement requiring the establishment of a new point of view, which rests not only to our industrial activities, but to every aspect of our lives."

Mr. DeBlois quotes figures from several large manufacturing plants where no accidents occurred in approximately half a million work days in each concern.

"These prolonged no-accident records are not 'luck'," said Mr. DeBlois. "These records are achieved only after months and sometimes years of patient, plodding effort by pay-roll and salaried men alike; safety education must come first, and then 'the safety spirit,' before the goal is reached.

"Accidents can be eliminated —not only those we always knew how to avoid, but even those we have been pleased to term 'unavoidable'."

NON-UNION OPERATORS DISCARD INJURY PAY

Oklahoma City, March 27.—Coal operators in this state who have repudiated the Jacksonville agreement, and are operating non-union have abandoned workmen's compensation, but continue to carry insurance on their machinery and their mine mules.

The recent mine disaster at Wilburton, where 93 non-union miners lost their lives, will not cost the company one cent for compensation, as it discontinued this insurance when it declared for non-unionism.

More than three score coal companies are operating without compensation and insurance on the non-union basis.

TABBING ALIENS IS RUSSIAN PLAN

Indianapolis, March 27.—"Proposals to register aliens and maintain a governmental supervision over them are too suggestive of Russian methods to harmonize with the traditions of America," said James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical union.

"These measures would work hardships on unoffending immigrants, place dangerous power in the hands of the government and prove an enormous expense," said Mr. Lynch.

"This registration plan, which certain interests are bent on jamming through this session of congress, if it can be done quietly, is calculated to be of immense benefit to large employers who would like to have a friendly governmental bureau in constant control of their alien employes, an instrument they might use for the intimidation of these employes."

Registration proponents claim that this system will permit the government to prepare aliens for citizenship.

"These agencies would wield the constant threat of deportation if their opinions failed to bloom in the desired shades," said the trade union executive. "Even the innocents from abroad, all bound for naturalization and the franchise, be schooled in the teachings of Adams and Hamilton or of Jefferson and Madison? Would a bureau under the present administration lead their trembling charges into safe Publicanism or permit them to climb to the higher civilization burdened with democratic failures?

"Registration will not stop bootlegging of foreigners into the United States because thousands of individuals, after the desperate and costly adventure of slipping in, will scarcely dread the option of sending for a card. It will not diminish crime unless a vast police spy system is established, and America do not want that.

"It is silly to shift blame for the crime wave on to foreigners, any way. Native talent needs no lessen from abroad on that point."

OFFICERS WOULD END ANNUAL DEFENSE TEST

San Antonio, March 27.—The annual defense day has proven a failure, according to a report by a committee of 12 reserve officers who have filed a report with Major General Hinds, corps commander of this area.

The officers favor a defense day once every four years when authorized by congress.

Stating that the purpose of the test had not been accomplished, the committee said that "the initiative at present springs from the regular establishment instead of a spontaneous expression of the people, and opens the regular forces to criticism."

GREEN URGES UNIONS TO AID HOTEL LABOR

Washington, March 27.—President Green has issued an appeal to trade unions to aid in the organization of hotel and restaurant employes. These workers are under jurisdiction of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America. This union is making a special effort to organize the catering industry.

BUTTON WORKERS STRIKE

New York, March 27.—Pithy shops and low wages forced several hundred button workers on strike. They demand sanitary work conditions, week work, wage increases and the union shop.

M'CAMANT REJECTED FOR FEDERAL JUDGE

Washington, March 27.—The president's nomination of Wallace McCamant for the federal judiciary was rejected by the senate by a viva voce vote. Not one senator raised his voice in defense of the man who nominated the president for vice president in 1920.

The committee had previously been reported favorably, but Senator Johnson of California induced the senate to refer the question back to committee. McCamant injured himself when he told the committee Theodore Roosevelt was not a good American because he favored the recall of judicial decisions. McCamant was counsel for a spruce corporation in Oregon that secured valuable concessions from the government and then attempted to employ Japanese labor.

When Senator Johnson was a candidate for the presidential nomination he was favored by a state-wide primary of Oregon Republican voters. McCamant was elected a delegate to the national convention of that party and voted for the late Warren G. Harding.

Senator Johnson insisted that the appointee violated the law.

It is the first time, it is said, that a presidential nominee failed to have at least one senator defend him.

FLEXIBLE TARIFF SCHEME HAS FAILED

Washington, March 27.—Appointments to the United States tariff commission have been made in some instances without regard to ability, training and open-mindedness, said Dr. Frank W. Taussig, first chairman of the commission, to a senate committee that is investigating the commission. Dr. Taussig is a professor of economics at Harvard university.

The commission is authorized to investigate tariff rates and make recommendations without the senate. The latter may then lower or increase these rates. Dr. Taussig said this flexible provision of the tariff law is serving no useful purpose and should be repealed.

The economist refused to compare the tariff commission with the interstate commerce commission. The latter body, he said, was governed by a generally accepted principle in fixing railroad rates, but there was no such principle to guide the tariff commission in fixing duties. With a wide divergence in the public mind between the theory of protection and tariff and free trade, he said he did not see how such principles could be laid down for the commission.

POLISHERS RESIST CUT

Cincinnati, March 27.—An attempt by the Corcoran (Auto) Lamp company to cut wages of metal polishers 12½ cents an hour resulted in a walk-out. This concern was intensely patriotic during the war and became enormously wealthy. To secure greater profits on watered stock, an efficiency "expert" was employed. As is usual with this gentry, the polishers were called upon to produce more for less wages.